Scheme to train youth

3080. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether targeting ten million tourists arrivals in India by 2010 that promises to generate two lakh jobs, Government has decided to launch a short term training programme under the "Earn-while you Learn" scheme to train youth so that they can work as student volunteers;

(b) whether this scheme is targeted primarily at students pursuing graduation and post-graduation courses and aged between 18-25 years; and

(c) if so, when this scheme is likely to be implemented and whether this has been a major achievement in the tourist department?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme titled "Earn while you learn" is a short term training programme of 21 days to encourage youth to work as student volunteers in tourism industry. A college going student who is pursuing a graduation course or is a graduate and who has attained the age of 18 years but is not more than an age of 25 years shall be eligible for the training programme. The first programme under the scheme was conducted from 24th December, 2007 to 13th January, 2008.

Medical Tourism in Kerala

3081. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by Government to give a big boost to tourism including medical tourism in the State of Kerala in near future;

(b) the details of tourism projects approved but not executed so far; and

(c) the status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Integrated development of tourism in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism has been providing Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Kerala under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure development of destinations/circuits

(ii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iii) Fairs/festivals/events

(iv) Information Technology

Proposals which are received in accordance with the scheme guidelines, are processed on inter-se priority basis and funds released subject to availability.

The Ministry of Tourism also promotes tourism products including medcial tourism in overseas markets through the webside, brochures, Compact Discs, participation in travel fairs and distribution of publicity material.